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ABSTRACT

A survey of student life patterns and library use at the Community and Technical College of the University of Toledo was made. From the results of the student survey it is clear that student life patterns could not easily be "synchronized" with present library delivery service patterns. The knowledge gained about student life patterns suggests that library delivery systems should probably be altered if they are to become more effective. In order to determine more effective alternatives, a study of faculty expectations is also required. (Author/WH)

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FINAL REPORT

SURVEY OF STUDENT LIFE PATTERNS AT THE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

by

Alice Naylor

for the

Library Advisory Committee

April 22, 1974

The University of Toledo
Community and Technical College

IR 001 202

INTRODUCTION

In the Fall of 1973, students in Information Sources, 786:190, began an informal survey of the information needs of ComTech students. This class project resulted in:

1) the establishment of the Student Information Center, as an answer to the unmet, immediate information needs expressed by students. The Student Information Center is continuing to operate successfully, except for limited hours and a distant relationship with the library.

2) a carefully designed survey of all students to determine their life patterns as they relate to ComTech and the use of libraries.

The purpose of the survey was presented to the faculty Library Advisory Committee for sponsorship in the Fall of 1973 with these objectives:

1) to enable College to meet its obligation to state as explicitly as possible its expectations for library service to the Director of Libraries.

2) to base those expectations on a factual understanding of the capability of students to use those services.

3) to provide data which can be presented to faculty for evaluation in terms of correlating their educational objectives and the use of library services.

Seven hundred and forty student-completed forms were tabulated. Questions 34, 35, and 36 indicate that a representative cross-section of morning, afternoon and evening students were polled.

BACKGROUND

The use of library materials and services at ComTech has been so low as to raise the question as to whether there is an actual need for a library at Scott Park.

The function of the library is primarily to contribute to the educational objectives of the College. The channels for communication of these objectives has been between individual faculty members and students with the library staff and through the Library Advisory Committee.

Based on information gathered in these ways, library management has presumably determined materials selection, quantity and quality of staff, physical facilities, types of services, and promotional techniques.

Discussions with library management have indicated that decisions on the above mentioned could be altered if new and more adequate data concerning college needs and expectations were received.

This survey was intended to provide some of that data. Coinciding with this survey, were discussions within the Library Advisory Committee on a topic which could best be described as "print versus non-print" information sources for students. Various suggestions for increasing non-print materials and equipment have been proposed in the Committee. It is assumed that before such decisions are made and acted upon that the results of this survey, plus an additional one aimed on getting faculty reactions, will be carefully evaluated.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE *percentage figures

Your responses to this Questionnaire will be used to help this College improve its service to students. Please answer all questions as they apply generally to your activities, not as they apply specifically to one class.

If you have completed this form in another class, please do not fill it out again.

1. How many hours a week are you employed?

*19.3	1) none
4.9	2) up to 10 hours
9.7	3) 10 to 19 hours
22.6	4) 20 to 39 hours
43.5	5) 40 hours or over and/or homemaker

2. Many people have a major responsibility for caring for children, parents or others. If you do, please indicate the number of persons.

61.9	1) none
25.0	2) 1 or 2
7.6	3) 3 or 4
4.5	4) 5 or more

3. How often do you participate in professional, social, church, sports, political or other types of organizations?

31.2	1) more than once a week
27.4	2) once a week
10.4	3) twice a month
14.1	4) once a month or less
16.9	5) not at all

4. Do you attend classes on the Bancroft campus as well as Comtech?

9.7	1) yes
90.0	2) no

Sometimes you want a person to go to for help with homework. To whom would you most likely go for this kind of help?

5. Teachers

11.8	1) never
66.4	2) a little
21.2	3) a lot

6. Classmates

15.9	1) never
65.1	2) a little
18.9	3) a lot

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7. ComTech Librarians

65.4	1) never
29.7	2) a little
4.9	3) a lot

8. Friends

25.3	1) never
58.4	2) a little
16.2	3) a lot

9. Tutorial Labs

63.9	1) never
28.1	2) a little
7.8	3) a lot

10. Associates at Work

59.6	1) never
34.3	2) a little
6.1	3) a lot

11. Librarians (Not at ComTech)

64.7	1) never
30.1	2) a little
5.1	3) a lot

12. Parents

66.2	1) never
29.9	2) a little
3.8	3) a lot

Where do you usually do homework?

13. At home or dormitory

5.8	1) not at all
22.6	2) sometimes
71.6	3) often

14. At ComTech Library

39.5	1) not at all
49.3	2) sometimes
11.2	3) often

15. In Class

62.2	1) not at all
35.9	2) sometimes
1.8	3) often

16. At Work

61.5	1) not at all
30.5	2) sometimes
8.0	3) often

17. Carlson Library (Bancroft)

69.9	1) not at all
23.1	2) sometimes
7.0	3) often

18. Other Libraries

62.3	1) not at all
34.3	2) sometimes
3.4	3) often

When do you do homework?

19. During morning hours

41.8	1) not at all
49.1	2) sometimes
9.2	3) often

20. During afternoon hours

15.3	1) not at all
60.0	2) sometimes
24.6	3) often

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21. During evening hours

8.2	1) not at all
40.5	2) sometimes
40.9	3) often

22. Late at night

22.0	1) not at all
49.6	2) sometimes
28.4	3) often

23. On weekends

8.8	1) not at all
49.6	2) sometimes
41.2	3) often

24. How many hours a week do you spend in class?

11.4	1) 1 to 5 hours
23.2	2) 6 to 9 hours
28.6	3) 10 to 13 hours
31.5	4) 14 to 17 hours
5.3	5) 18 or more hours

25. How many hours per week do you spend at ComTech out of class and not employed at ComTech?

26.1	1) none
18.0	2) less than one hour
26.4	3) 1 to 2 hours
17.6	4) 3 to 5 hours
12.0	5) more than 6 hours

If you spend time on the ComTech campus out of class, where do you spend the time? Please respond to all questions 26 to 33.

26. Non-Academic Service Center

79.3	1) never
18.4	2) a little
2.2	3) a lot

27. Canteen - Second floor LRC

45.8	1) never
45.3	2) a little
8.8	3) a lot

28. ComTech Library

37.0	1) never
44.6	2) a little
18.2	3) a lot

29. Classroom Center (CC) Lounges

57.7	1) never
35.9	2) a little
6.4	3) a lot

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30. Concourse

54.3	1) never
37.0	2) a little
8.5	3) a lot

31. Listening Center

83.5	1) never
14.7	2) a little
1.8	3) a lot

32. Bookstore

57.4	1) never
42.9	2) a little
.5	3) a lot

33. Reading Lab

84.9	1) never
12.6	2) a little
2.4	3) a lot

During what time of day do you attend ComTech? Check all times that apply.

64.0	34. 1) mornings
48.6	35. 1) afternoons
67.8	36. 1) evenings

37. Approximately how many hours a week do you spend on homework?

4.6	1) none
9.2	2) 1 or 2 hours
27.0	3) 3 or 4 hours
25.1	4) 5 or 6 hours
34.1	5) 7 or more hours

What is your usual mode of transportation to ComTech? Mark yes only for the most frequent.

38. Your personal car

84.5	1) yes	625
15.3	2) no	

39. Your turn with the family car

28.5	1) yes	211
71.2	2) no	

40. Ride with friend or relative

30.9	1) yes	229
68.9	2) no	

41. Shuttle bus from Bancroft Campus

31.4	1) yes	232
68.5	2) no	

42. Tarta (city bus)

25.0	1) yes	185
75.0	2) no	

43. Walk or bicycle

27.4	1) yes	203
72.2	2) no	

Thank you for your time.

SUMMARY

The most striking of the before mentioned figures is the percent of students who work: full-time, 44%; 81%, work some hours.

The 58% who are active in organization once a week or more may be primarily church goers, but only 17% said they were not active at all. The indication is that a large number of students are involved in community or campus activities.

Although the percentage of students who receive help with homework "a lot" is low, it is interesting that teacher's help is 21%, a lot; classmates, 19%; and friends, 16%.

Librarians are apparently **generally not** considered a source of help with homework. Homework is primarily done at home at night and on weekends; an important factor in determining any kind of campus service, especially library service. Eighty-six percent of the students spend three hours or more on homework a week.

For students doing homework at ComTech, the library is important; 18% use it a lot; 37% never, as compared to much higher percentages of "nevers" for other locations on the campus.

Seventy percent of the students spend less than two hours on the campus out of class; while 60% spend 10 to 17 hours in class. In light of this, recent administrative suggestion to plan program courses back to back would seem highly advisable, since students apparently now take those courses which are scheduled consecutively.

Time seems to be the key factor in determining the use of campus services by students. The extent of employment seems to be the greatest influence on time available.

Those who do the most homework do use libraries. Dependents, who do take time, seem to influence student-use of libraries (and other services) positively--perhaps that indicates a need for a place to escape. Students having no dependents are less apt to use the ComTech library. This may imply that younger students do not use the library because of inclination or lack of knowledge we do not know, but perhaps we should.

The 10% of ComTech students who also attend classes on Bancroft campus use libraries more than other students.

CROSS-TABULATIONS

It is possible to describe some common characteristics to primarily two groups of students: those who work full-time (44%); and those who appear to go to school full-time in terms of the questioning of those who spend the most hours in class, 14 hours or more (37%).

Those who work 40 hours or more are most apt to:

1. never use classmate or friend help with homework.
2. never do homework in the morning and the least likely to do homework in the afternoon a lot.
3. spend 6 to 9 hours in class and zero hours out of class at ComTech.
4. not use libraries.
5. drive personal car to ComTech.
6. spend no time out of class at ComTech, are most apt to never use the ComTech library or other libraries.

Those students who spend the most hours in class are most apt to:

1. be among those who use Carlson library.
2. use teacher help.
3. use library "sometimes" if they spend 1 to 2 hours at ComTech out of class.
4. do homework in libraries if they spend the most hours out of class at ComTech (more than 2 hours).
5. spend the most hours out of class at ComTech.
6. use libraries if in class 14-17 hours.
7. have the least responsibility for family members.
8. be those who use classmates and friends for help with homework a lot.
9. those students who work 39 hours or less are most apt to take 14-17 class hours.
10. those students who are active more than once a week in organizations are most apt to be those who do not work and have no dependents.

11. students who have 1-2 hours out of class at ComTech are most apt to use ComTech librarian for help often.

12. students who spend the most hours in class have the least number of dependents.

13. students who spend most hours out if class at ComTech are most apt to be among those who study mornings.

14. students who do homework during mornings often are most apt to use NASC, Canteen and ComTech library a lot.

Other significant relationships are:

1. Students who attend Bancroft Campus are most apt to do homework in libraries.

2. Those students who use the Carlson Library are not apt to use the shuttle bus.

3. Students with the most dependents are most apt to use ComTech librarian help a lot, and other libraries sometimes.

4. Student with the least number of dependents are more apt to take more class hours.

5. Students with the least number of dependents are most apt to never use tutorial lab, help from work associates or librarian's help.

6. Students who spend most hours on homework (8+) use libraries a lot (49%).

IMPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARY SERVICE AT COMTECH

A. Generally, students spend very little time out of class on the ComTech campus. Of those who do, 18% spend that time in the library "a lot", although only 11% say they do homework there "often". Homework is done chiefly evenings and weekends.

To obtain library service presently, students need to physically go to the library.

For Discussion:

1. What should the library hours of opening be to best meet the needs of students?
2. Would students use telephone service evenings and weekends if such service were available and promoted?
3. Are there other methods of delivery for information sources needed by students than those requiring their physical presence in the library?

B. The ComTech library, and for that matter all other libraries, are used very little for homework purposes; 40% "never" use the ComTech library. Although students do go to other people for help with homework, librarians are not among those people.

For Discussion:

1. Are library assignments indeed required of students by faculty?
2. Could librarians provide a legitimate and needed service by becoming known as "homework helpers"?
3. Should the educational objectives of the College and the objectives of the ComTech library include inculcating in students the individual motivation to search for information?

C. Eighty-three percent of the students participate in some organizational activity.

For Discussion:

1. Should faculty and library know more about the kind of involvement of students as a positive element in the education process?
2. Is there a need for information by these participants in organizational activity which could be served by the ComTech library?

D. Students who state they "never" spend time out of class in the Reading Lab or Listening Center number 85%. Those who "never" spend that time in the library number 37%.

For Discussion: 1. How can we interpret these figures in determining the expansion or reduction of non-print materials and services?

E. The use of any service or facility at ComTech can be assumed to be largely determined by faculty expectations of students. This is particularly true of curriculum-related library resource materials, including audio-visual materials.

For Discussion:

1. Does this statistical description of the life patterns of ComTech students provide the faculty with new information which can be of value in re-evaluating their expectations of students?

2. Would it be useful to obtain from faculty some measure of their expectations in terms of class and individual use of information resources (print and non-print media) in order to better determine an appropriate delivery system for those information sources?

3. If students are now expected to use libraries for resource material, and in view of the above statistics, could it be that they are getting resource material elsewhere, or not at all?

4. Could ComTech library resources be "delivered" to classrooms at appropriate times rather than expecting students to go to the library?

5. If class periods are the only time students spend on campus, should those periods be re-evaluated in terms of length of time and use of resources?

6. Are the ComTech library resources appropriate to faculty expectations?

7. Does faculty expect students to know how to "search" for information?

8. Would faculty be better able to meet its expectation of students if the library provided a "search" service, which could result in reproducable information for students in both print and non-print format?

9. Does the faculty need a "search" service?

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CONCLUSION

It is clear from the results of the student survey that student life patterns could not easily be "synchronized" with present library delivery service patterns. The knowledge gained about student life patterns suggests that library delivery systems should probably be altered if they are to become more effective. In order to determine more effective alternatives, a study of faculty expectations is also required.

As originally commissioned by the Library Advisory Committee, I would like to undertake such a study immediately.

Alice Naylor